

MP, MLA LOCKED IN WAR OF WORDS OVER GROUND DEVELOPMENT AT SADA

Amonkar accuses Capt Viriato of trying to fool people with fake publicity; Parliamentarian accuses legislator of corruption

Team Herald

VASCO: A heated exchange erupted between Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar and South Goa MP Capt Viriato Fernandes regarding the development of the Rose Circle ground at Sada, Mormugao.

The dispute began when Amonkar accused Capt Fernandes of misleading the public and engaging in a publicity stunt. Amonkar launched developmental works at the Rose Circle

ground on Tuesday, taking a dig at Capt. Fernandes, who had previously claimed to have secured a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to undertake the same project under the MPLAD scheme.

Amonkar said, "I displayed the NOC on the very day I received the work order. If he (MP) genuinely intended to develop the ground under MPLAD funds, why did he not begin the work earlier? What was he doing all this while? He is only trying to fool the

people with fake publicity. He should stop misleading them and get on the ground instead of playing politics."

Responding to Fernandes's earlier criticism regarding Amonkar's alleged inaction on coal pollution in the Mormugao constituency, the MLA asserted that the MP is pre-occupied with discussing coal and dust pollution but is not visible on the ground. He claimed that the MP "sits in Delhi and enjoys tea with the owners of coal handling

companies like Adani and Jindal, while making baseless allegations against him".

Amonkar challenged the MP, "I challenge him (MP) to deny this and prove otherwise. We have proof of his dealings. Let him come to Damodar Temple, Vasco and refute my claims."

Refuting Amonkar's charges, Capt Fernandes questioned the MLA's moral standing.

"My life is an open book. Amonkar has no moral

right to speak about me when he himself betrayed the people's mandate by joining the BJP despite winning on a Congress ticket. He took oaths in a temple, church and dargah that he will not defect after getting elected and yet he switched sides," said Capt Fernandes.

The South Goa MP accused Amonkar of corruption and alleged extortion from port-based companies, small businesses, and even street vendors.

Velim resident alleges police brutality

Ian D'Souza complains to South SP, accusing eight cops of assaulting him while returning home from duty

Team Herald

MARGAO: Forty-one-year-old Ian Lauranco D'Souza, a resident of Zaino, Velim, has filed a complaint with the Superintendent of Police, South Goa, and other police officials, alleging that he was brutally assaulted by eight police officers without any stated reason

while returning home from duty. He claimed that the policemen threatened him of dire consequences if he filed a complaint.

D'Souza stated that the assault occurred late on June 20 night and he admitted to the hospital the same night and discharged on June 21.

He alleged that he was forcibly taken to the Cun-

colim Police Station, where he was again beaten by four individuals in civilian clothes and three in police uniform. D'Souza has requested the SP to register an FIR against all police personnel and others involved in the assault and illegal detention. He has also requested disciplinary and criminal action against the responsible police officials and for the preservation of all relevant CCTV footage from the area near Velim Church and from within the Cuncolim Police Station on the night of June 20.

Meanwhile, Ian's brother,

Clifton, received a call from the police informing him that the complainant was in custody. Until then, no communication had been made to the complainant's family, nor were they informed of any reason for his detention.

When contacted, officiating Cuncolim PI Harish Raut Dessai said that they are in receipt of a complaint and inquiry is on.

Meanwhile, Clifton has made a representation to the chairperson of the Goa Human Rights Commission, requesting to register his complaint.

Salaulim dam overflows early

Authorities urge caution near the spillway due to increased water discharge

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Salaulim Dam overflowed on Wednesday, marking the earliest such event in recent memory.

This year's overflow comes 12 days earlier than last year, when the dam began overflowing at 7.07 p.m. on July 7.

Known for its picturesque surroundings, the Salaulim Dam is a vital water source for South Goa, supplying both drinking and irrigation water. It is also a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. The dam features Asia's first duckbill spillway, which enables efficient water discharge during periods of heavy rainfall.

In previous years, the dam overflowed on July 19 in 2023 and July 9 in 2022. This year's early overflow is attributed to the premature onset of the monsoon in Goa. With rainfall con-



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tinuing across the region, the rising water levels have drawn attention from across the State.

Authorities have urged caution near the spillway due to increased water discharge. Speaking to re-

porters, Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar reassured the public, stating that while many of the State's dams are expected to overflow due to the monsoon, there is no cause for alarm.

"There is no need for nearby villagers to fear. As the rains have begun, all the dams will start overflowing. However, there is no need to worry—the gates are open," he said.

shorttakes

Lucky escape for passengers in Yellapur bus accident

PANJIM: Several passengers escaped with minor injuries after a Goa-Bengaluru inter-State bus early Tuesday morning met with an accident near Yellapur and ended up dangerously hanging over the edge of a cliff. Those passengers who sustained minor injuries were shifted to a nearby medical facility. Eyewitnesses said the accident occurred on a sharp curve, and the situation could have turned fatal had the bus moved any further. The authorities rushed to the spot and began rescue operations. The authorities are yet to ascertain the cause of the accident, though preliminary reports suggest the driver may have lost control of the vehicle.

Haryana native held for stealing two-wheeler, cash at Cortalim

VASCO: The Verna Police arrested a former employee on the charge of stealing a two-wheeler and cash from a fast food outlet at Cortalim. The police gave the name of the accused as Kapil Manish Kumar (26), a native of Sector 19, Panchkula, Haryana. He was arrested in Haryana and the stolen two-wheeler was recovered from him. The theft was reported in October last year and Sachin Bhimappa Padasalgi, a businessman from Zuarinagar, Sancoale had filed a police complaint in this regard. The accused was working as a cook in a fast food centre at Quelosim. Additionally, the accused also stole cash of Rs 2,000 from the counter. The total value of stolen items was Rs 1,00,288. The Verna Police registered a case against Kapil Kumar under BNS. The accused has been remanded in two days police custody by the JMFC, Vasco. ASI Paresh Faldesai is conducting further investigations.

3 bank staffers booked for cheating Baina local of gold

VASCO: The Vasco Police registered a case against three persons including two employees of HDFC Bank, for allegedly cheating a Baina resident of gold ornaments valued at Rs 8.78 lakh under the pretext of offering a loan at a lower interest rate. Khwaja Hussain in his complaint has stated that the incident occurred on June 20, 2025, at Shantinagar, Vasco when the accused identified as Safhan Khan of Dabolim; Shazia Sayed, an employee of HDFC Bank and Sunil Chavan, manager of the same bank, with a common intention deceived Hussain. Police stated that Hussain had taken back his gold ornaments from Muthoot Finance by paying Rs 8,78,600, following which the accused allegedly convinced him to pledge the same ornaments with the HDFC Bank, promising a loan at a reduced rate of interest. The complainant handed over gold ornaments to Safhan Khan, believing it would be re-pledged. However, the accused failed to produce the ornaments at the Bank and allegedly misappropriated them for personal gain. The Vasco police have registered a case against the three under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. PSI Mayur Sawant is conducting an investigation.

Fatorda resident files scooter theft complaint

MARGAO: Jayson D'Silva, a resident of Fatorda, filed a complaint with the Fatorda Police regarding the theft of his scooter. According to the Fatorda Police, D'Silva reported that on June 20, he had parked his scooter in an open parking area near his residence. An unknown individual then stole the scooter, resulting in an approximate loss of Rs 1,11,987. Fatorda Police visited the scene and conducted a panchanama. An offence under Section 303(2) of the BNS has been registered.

Karnataka native found dead at Sancorda

MARGAO: The body of Pandurang Mirashi, 24, a native of Karnataka, was found hanging in his room at Bolkanem, Sancorda. Upon receiving the information, the Collem Police visited the scene and found the body hanging from a wooden rafter on the back verandah of the house with a cotton rope. Following an inquiry, the police conducted the panchanama. The post mortem examination confirmed that the cause of death was due to "asphyxia as a result of hanging". The body has been handed over to the family. PSI Sadanand Dessai is investigating the case.

CM inaugurates renovated Khandola school building

PONDA: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday inaugurated the renovated building of the Government Higher Secondary School at Khandola, Marcel. During the event, he announced plans to construct a new school building spread over 5,000 square metres within the next three years.

Fulkar Samaj of Mardol urge heritage status to preserve endangered jasmine plantations

Team Herald

PONDA: The Fulkar Samaj of Mardol has stepped up its efforts to preserve the unique and fragrant Zayo (jasmine flowers) that are on the verge of extinction in the region. A meeting was recently held at the Veling-Priol-Cuncolliem Panchayat office, where over 70 Mollekars (traditional jasmine cultivators) gathered alongside officials from the Goa State Biodiversity Board to appeal for the protection of Jayache Molle (jasmine plantations) by declaring them a heritage site.

The initiative was spearheaded by Pratap Naik, President of Fulkar Samaj Mardol, who emphasised the historical and cultural importance of the plantations. According to him, the Mollekars have been cultivating jasmine in Mardol for over a hundred years,



making it a vital part of their livelihood and Goan floral heritage.

However, a dispute over land ownership has emerged as a major obstacle in officially recognising the plantations as a heritage site. Despite their long-standing association with the land, the Fulkar Samaj has faced difficulties in securing its legal status. In recent years, there have also been several suspicious fire incidents—allegedly caused by unknown individuals—that have dam-

aged large portions of the century-old jasmine plantations.

The Fulkar Samaj, deeply concerned about losing both a revered tradition and their source of income, has reiterated their plea to the State Biodiversity Board. "The Mardol Zayo is renowned across Goa for its exceptional fragrance and is highly sought after," said a member of the Fulkar Samaj. "But now we are not just losing a flower, we are losing our identity and livelihood."

Trekking season to Dudhsagar waterfall begins with monsoon thrill

GTDC flags off eco-tourism drive; locals benefit as tourists trek to witness nature's monsoon marvel

Team Herald

PONDA: The much-anticipated trekking season to the world-renowned Dudhsagar Waterfall officially began yesterday, with Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) Chairman Dr Ganesh Gaonkar flagging off an eco-tourism initiative promoting sustainable and adventure tourism in the region.

With the arrival of the monsoon, trekkers have started venturing through the lush forest trails to witness the majestic Dudhsagar Waterfall in its full gushing glory. While jeeps ferry tourists to the base of the falls from October



to May, monsoon trekking becomes the only means to access the waterfall, as the Dudhsagar River swells and overflows, making jeep



travel impossible.

Dudhsagar, often regarded as the 'crown jewel' of Goa's natural beauty, gained international fame

after being featured in the Bollywood film *Chennai Express*. Although the best view of the falls is from the railway bridge, public access was banned nearly a decade ago by the railways due to safety concerns and unruly behaviour by some passengers.

During the monsoon season, around 100 local tourist guides earn their livelihood by accompanying and guiding visitors along the forest trekking route. The trail offers an adventurous and thrilling experience, as trekkers brave the rains to reach the cascading marvel hidden deep in the Western Ghats.

Locals and tourism stake-

holders alike are hopeful that the eco-tourism initiative and safe trekking guidelines will help pre-

serve the area's natural charm while continuing to boost local incomes during the season.

APPOINTMENTS

WANTED

ADVOCATE

A Public Limited Company requires LAW Graduate having 5 years of working experience in handling legal matters for real estate, Property matters, with impressive communication skill, computer literate and resident of, in and around Margao and possess valid two / four wheeler licence.

Interested candidates may send their resume to **veenagoa@gmail.com** or contact on mobile no. 9765007957, 9067375147